

20734

10/12/66

Dear Mr. Waite,

Thanks for your helpful letters of the 6th and 8th. You may now consider the book not a gift but something more than earned. They are helpful, and I do appreciate your motive and effort, and hope you can finish soon for if there are such errors, no matter how minor, I want to know about and correct them immediately.

In some cases I believe you misunderstood, as with the rifle. A rifle was advertised for that price, but not this rifle. With the "wrapped up" that is from his earlier press conference that day and is here reaffirmed by Curry. Etc.

I know how your friends feel about the ride. On the other side, we have sold 13,000 copies of the book plus, but have been able to pay the printer thus far for but 10,000 of these, with a few of the earlier service (like art and photography) not yet billed for. Until a month ago, we did not even take postage from the gross income. Now we are taking that, and only that. He gets all the rest. Unless this book has a very successful paperback edition, which I look forward to, there is no possibility of our breaking even on it. By now you perhaps have an idea of the investment in time alone over the past several years. There is also considerable cash, not any of which is close to recovery.

I had no help on the preparation of the book. That is mine, with the help of a wonderful and competent and very hard working wife. The help I was referring to is toward getting it printed. There are other side a regular publisher provides that I do not have, aside from the valuable ones you mentioned. For example, advertising and public relations. Today I had to turn down an offer to appear on a major New York radio program because I'd have had to fly there and back ~~and~~ the same day and just cannot afford the ticket. I go there only when my expenses are paid or when I can combine a number of needs.

May thanks for the warm comments. They do mean much, for we are still in the trenches, including the financial ones, and it is good to know, as so many wonderful people have taken the time to write, that what we have done is both understood and appreciated. It really means more than I can communicate, for these have been a couple of very rough years in which we have had no income whatsoever.

With sincere appreciation,

P.S. By the time you finish this, the exact words of my book will be more fresh in your mind than in mine. Would you be interested in the intellectual exercise of comparing Popkin's "The Second Oswald" with it? I am shocked that the New York Review would lend itself to what to me is such an unethical thing as to pretend in a pretended review of my book that almost 100% of the work Popkin attributes to himself appeared first in my book. When he quotes Lane on unimportant things, like the presumed weather one day Oswald fired on the rifle course when he was in the Marine Corps, he has not directly quoted me with attribution, but where I have used part of a quote, leaving off both the beginning and the end, he does exactly that, omitting exactly the same words!